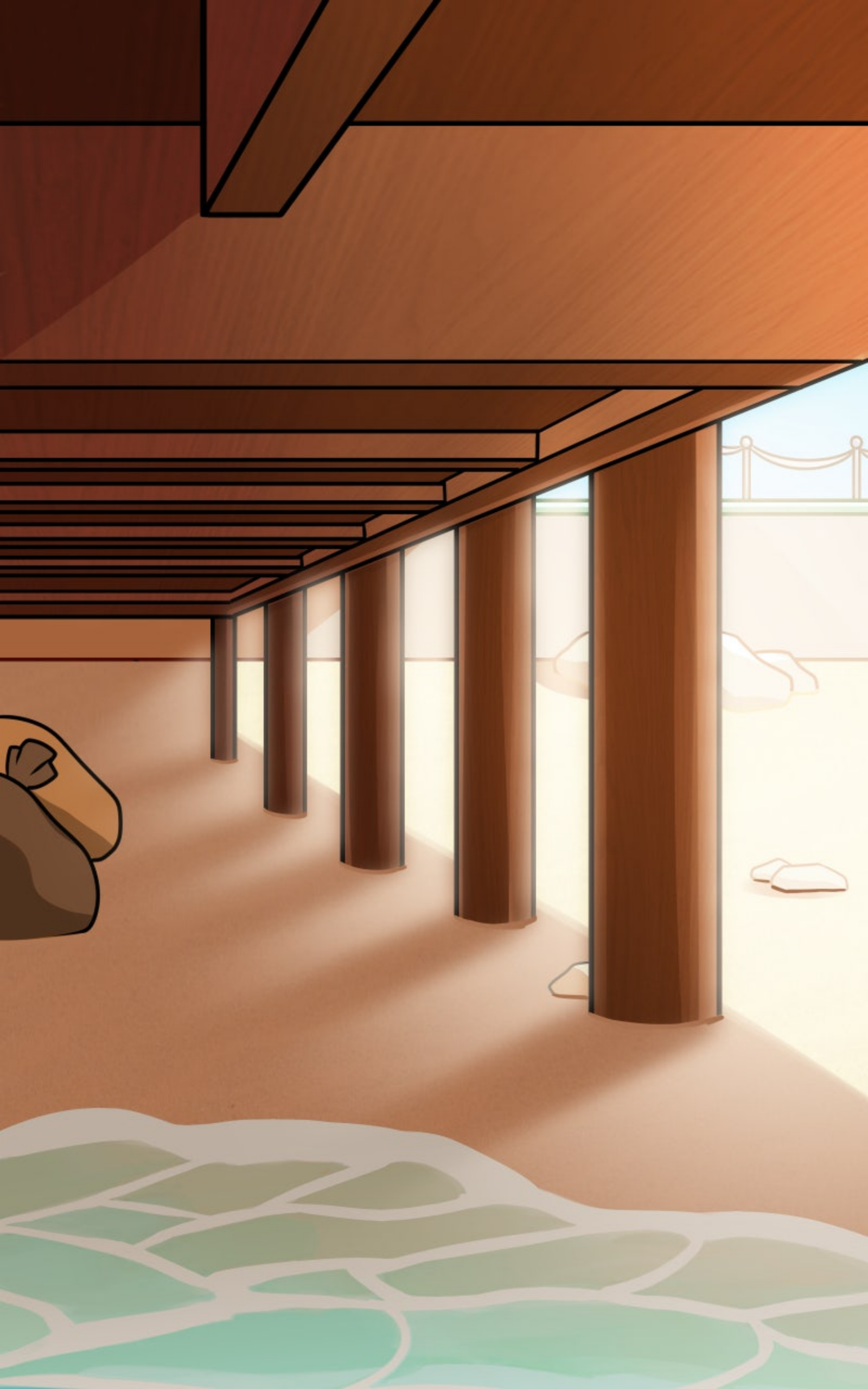
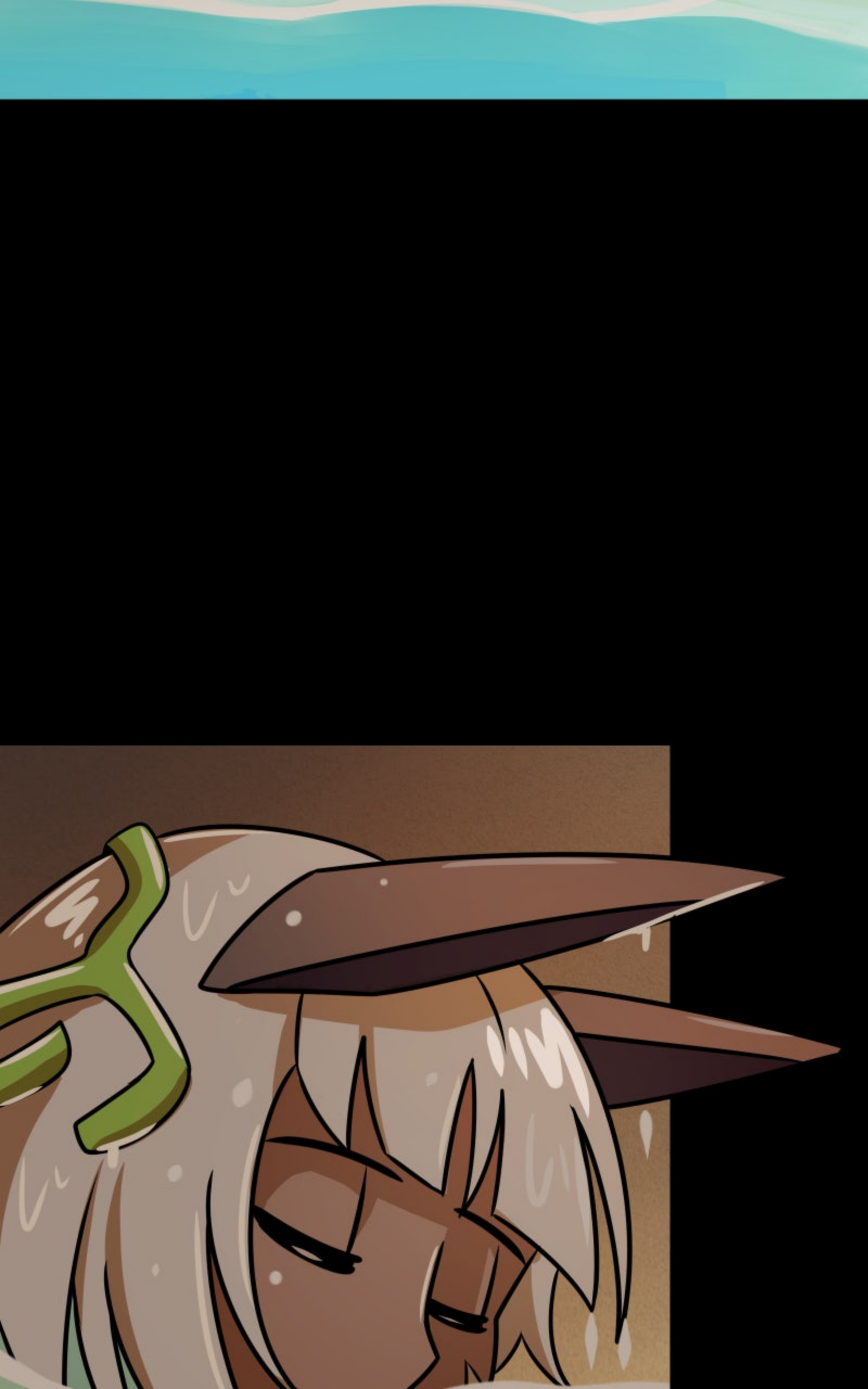


New Meridian Docks











ACK! PLEH!
AUGH, BLAH!



ACK! WHAT
THE-- WHAT
THE HELL!?





WHAT'S
GOING ON!?

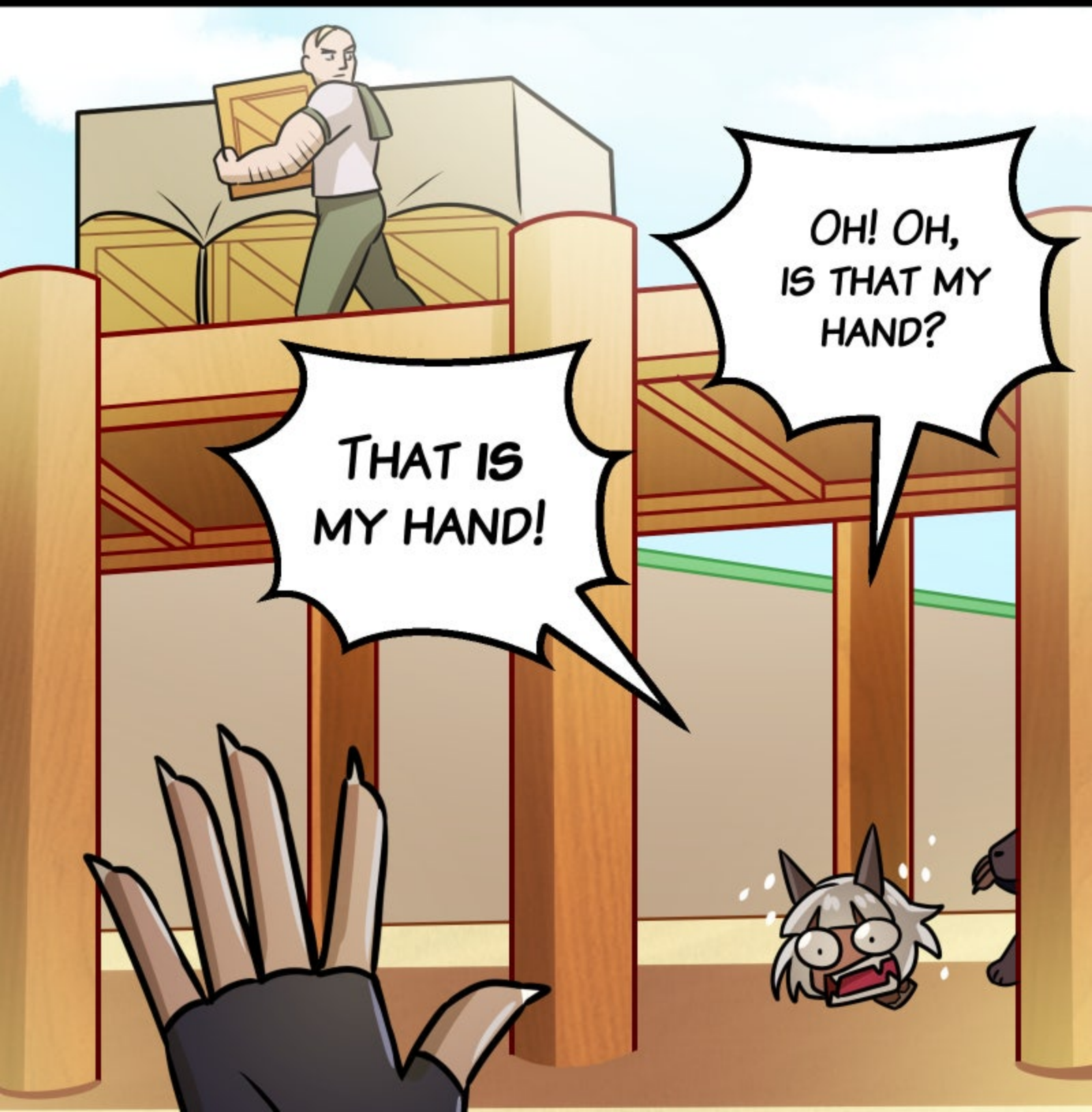


WHERE'S MY
BODY?! WHERE
IS MY BODY!?

HOW--

HOW AM I
ALIVE?! I DON'T...
I, I CAN'T--



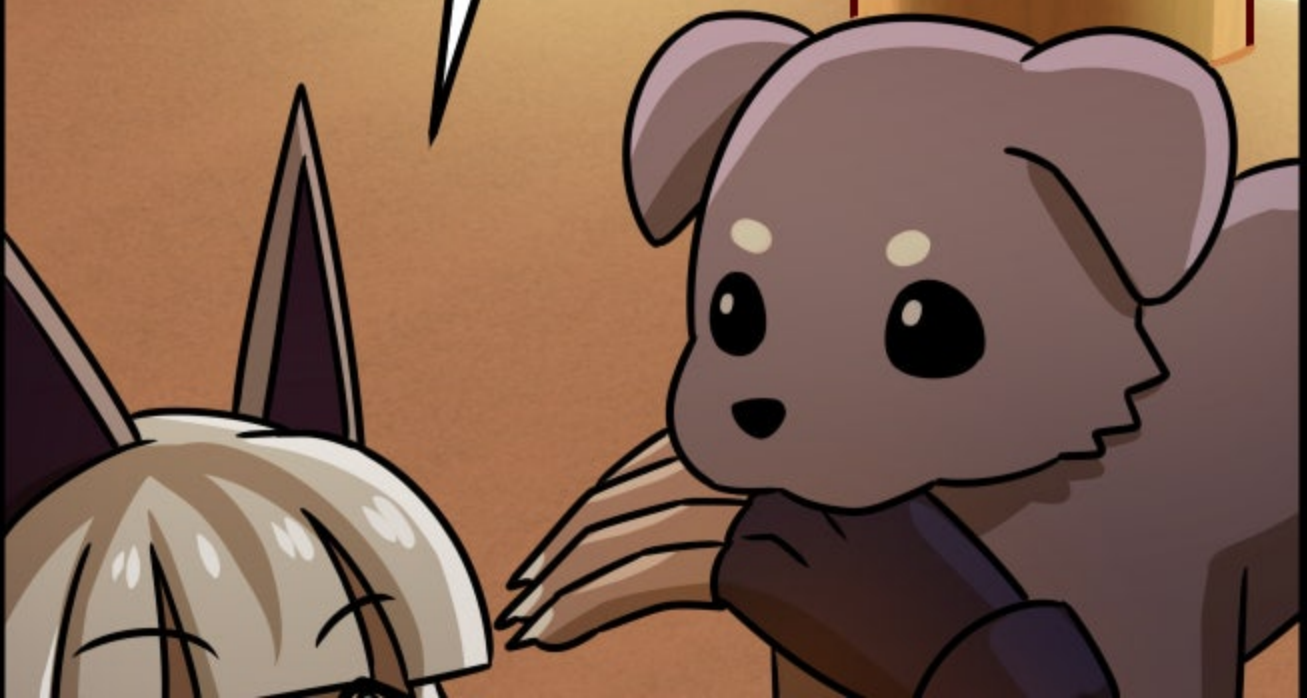


THAT IS
MY HAND!

OH! OH,
IS THAT MY
HAND?



THAT'S... THAT'S
GOOD. YEAH, THAT
MEANS THE REST OF ME
HAS TO BE AROUND HERE
SOMEWHERE.









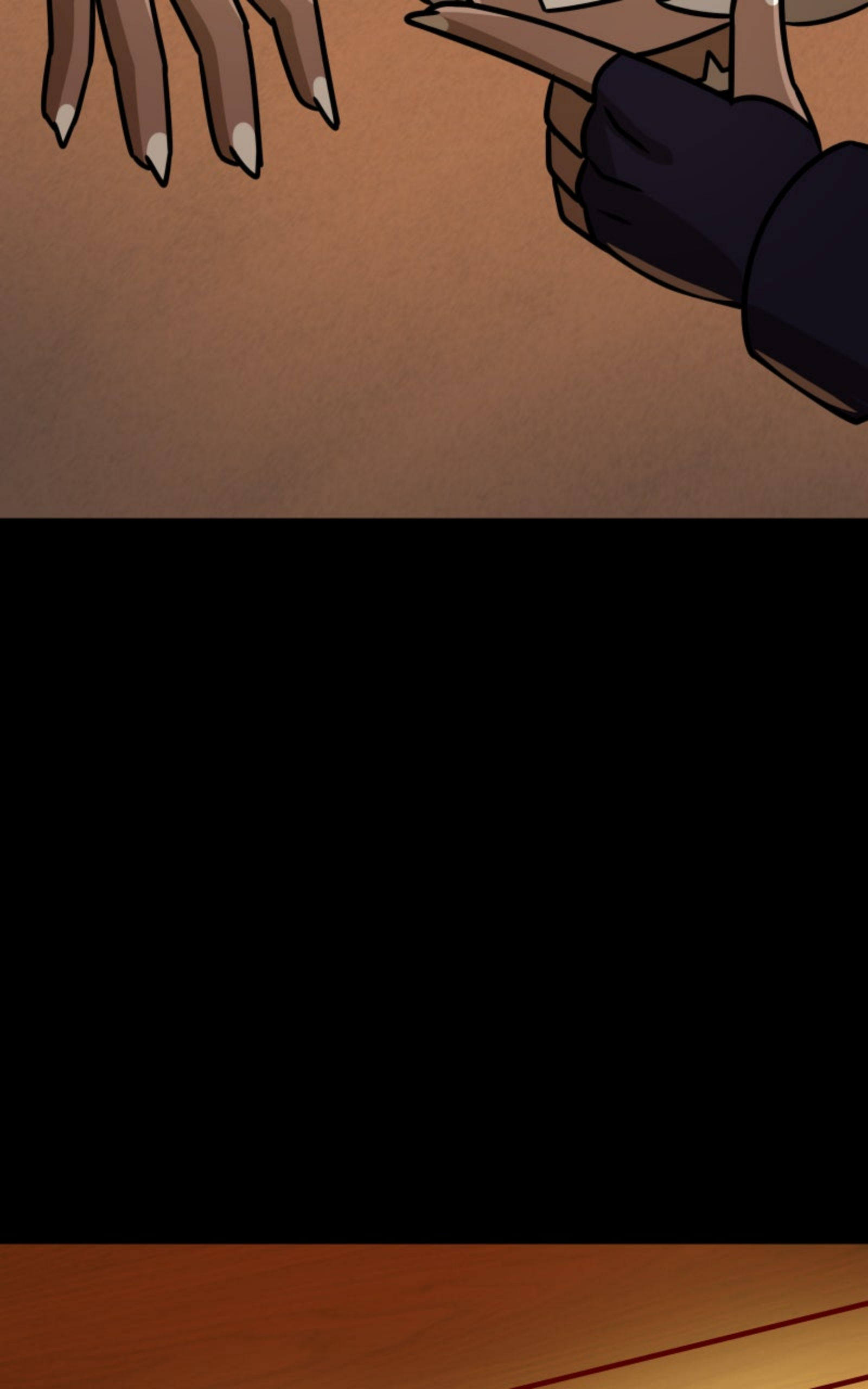
AWW, THANK
YOU! THINK YOU
CAN FETCH THE
REST OF ME?

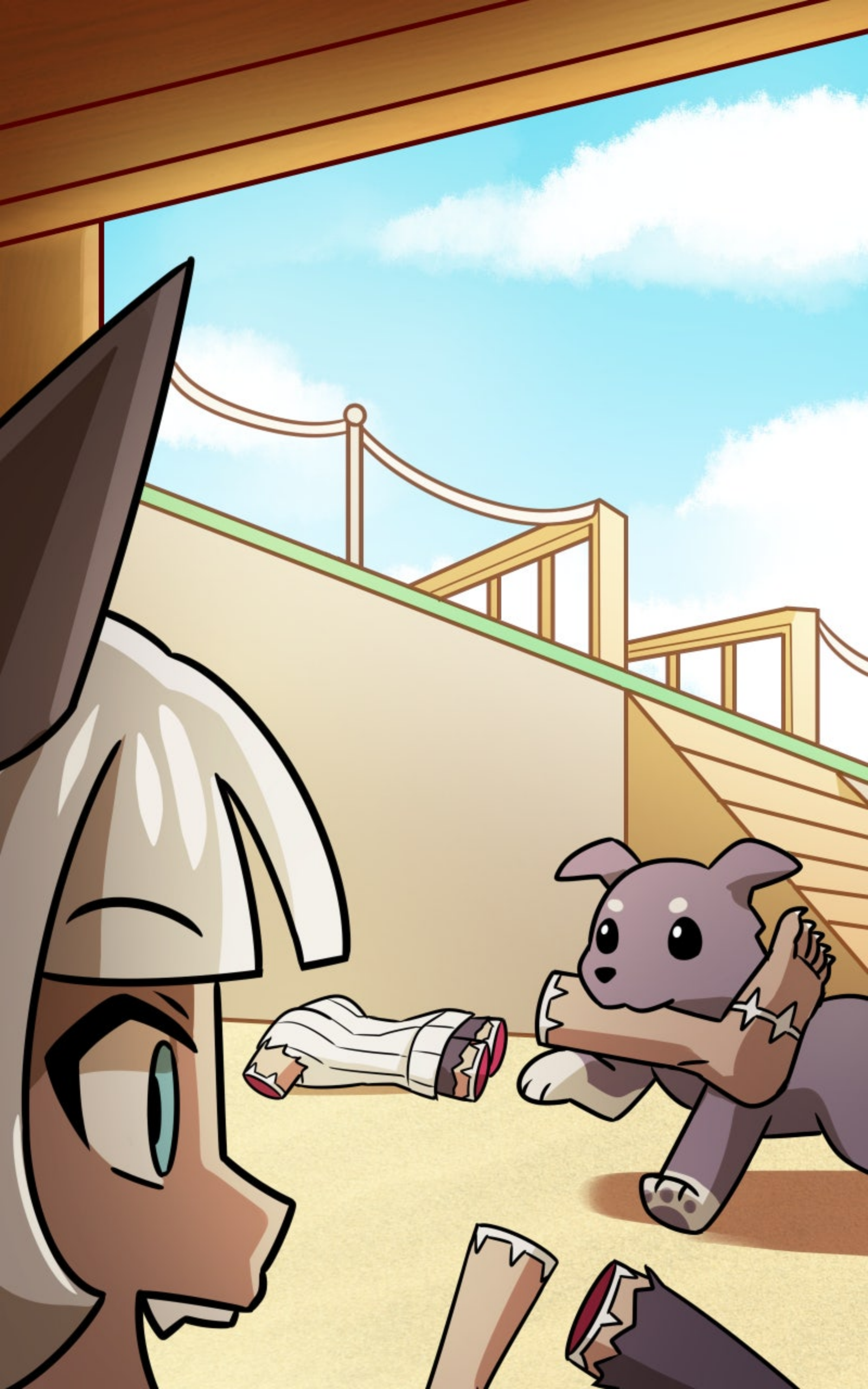
GO ON!
GO GET
ME!





THIS IS SO, SO
WEIRD, BUT I... I CAN
FEEL MY BODY.







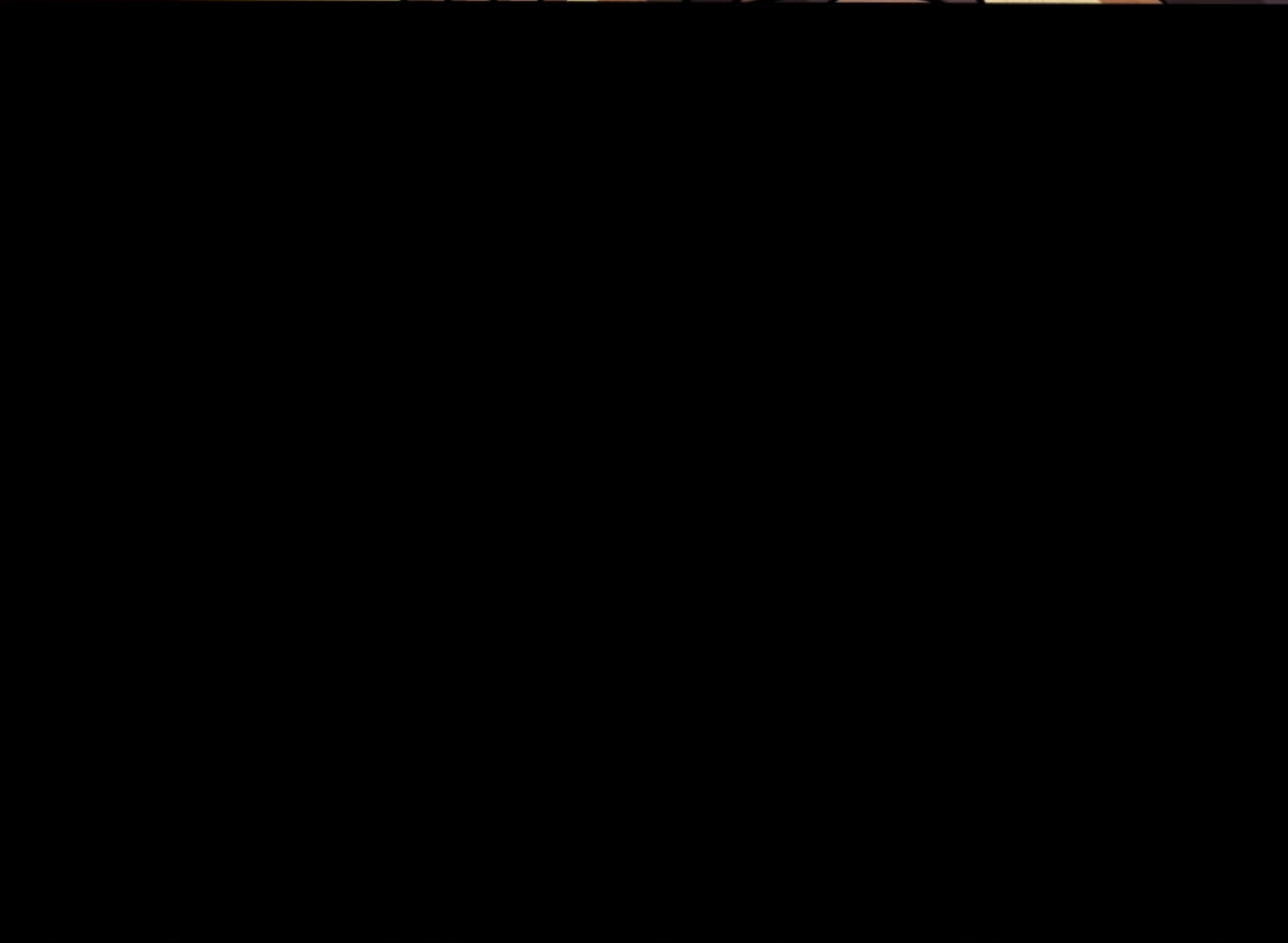
THINK I'M STARTING
TO GET THE HANG OF THIS
A LITTLE BIT, DOGGIE.
JUST GOTTA PULL...
MYSELF... TOGETHER...





A cartoon illustration featuring a girl with white hair and blue eyes, wearing a grey and white striped shirt, lying on the ground. She is looking up at a dark grey dog with white spots on its chest and paws, which is sitting on the ground. A speech bubble from the girl contains the text: "OKAY! I'M, Y'KNOW... MOSTLY TOGETHER NOW. BUT HOW DO I STAY THAT WAY?".

OKAY! I'M,
Y'KNOW... MOSTLY
TOGETHER NOW.
BUT HOW DO I STAY
THAT WAY?







OOP!
STAY THERE,
YOU!

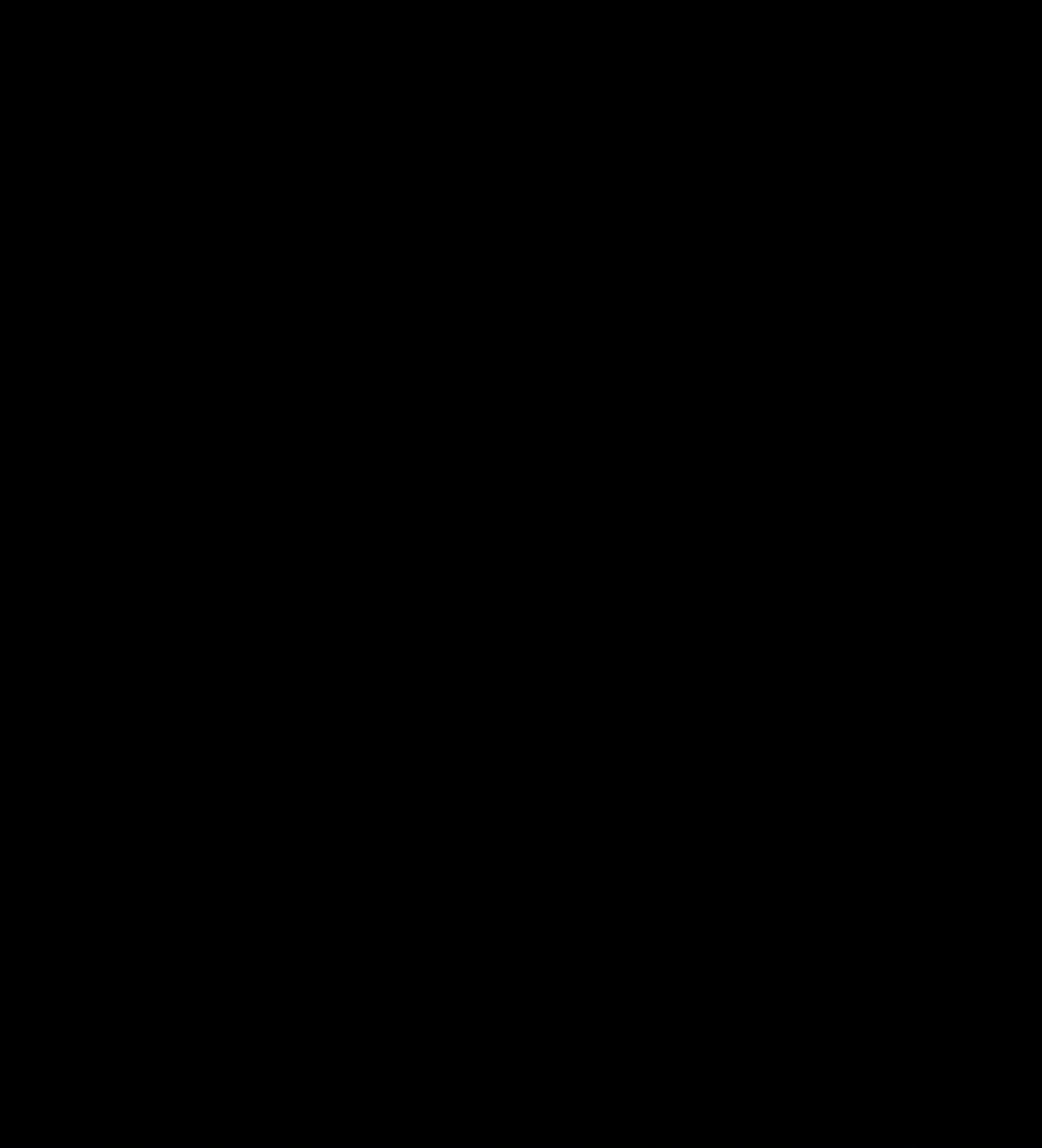


I CAN DO THIS!
YEAH, I CAN DO
THIS!

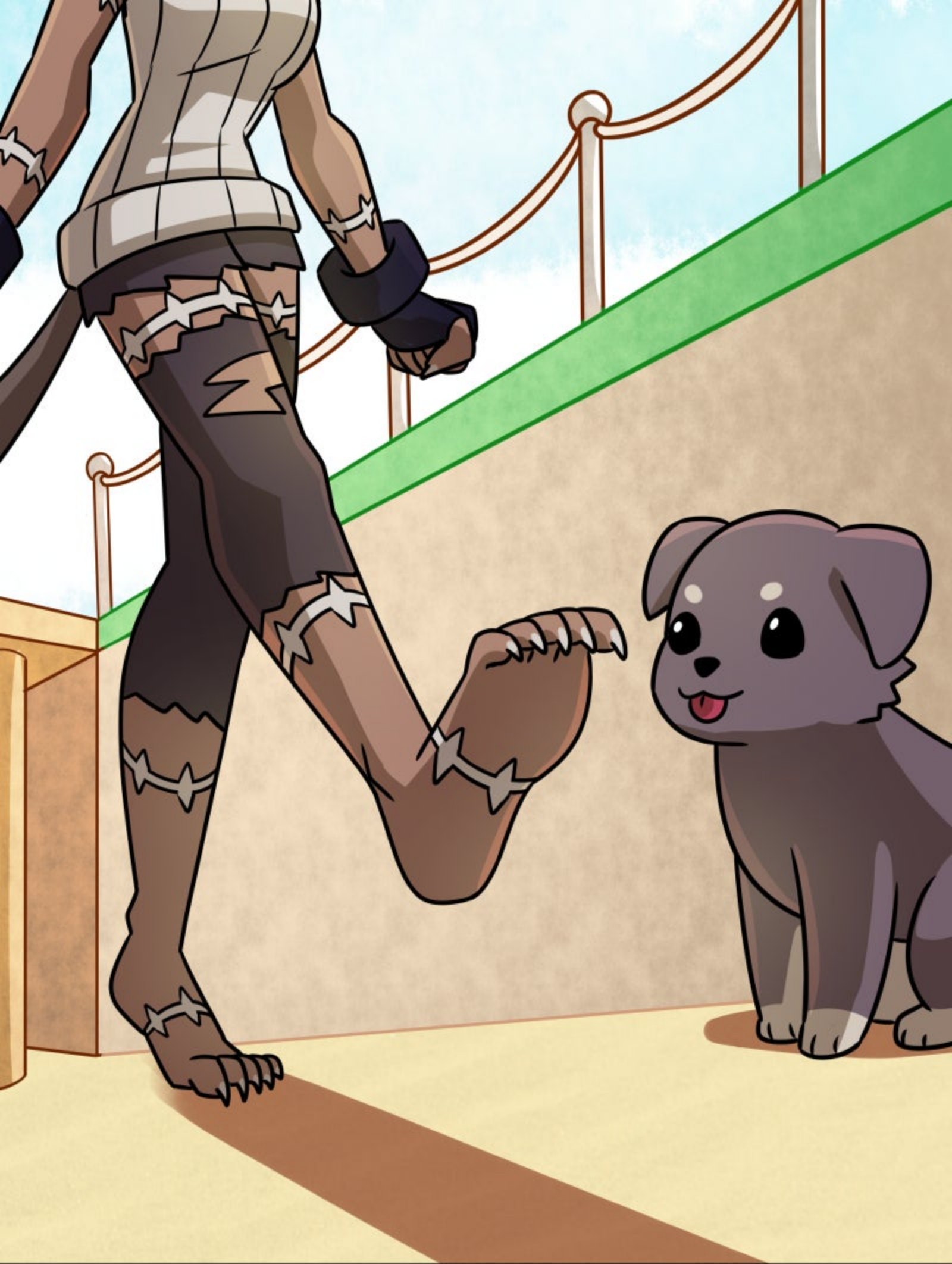


YES! UPRIGHT, AND,
Y'KNOW... MODERATELY
STABLE. JUST GOTTA
TAKE IT A STEP AT A
TIME, THAT'S ALL.



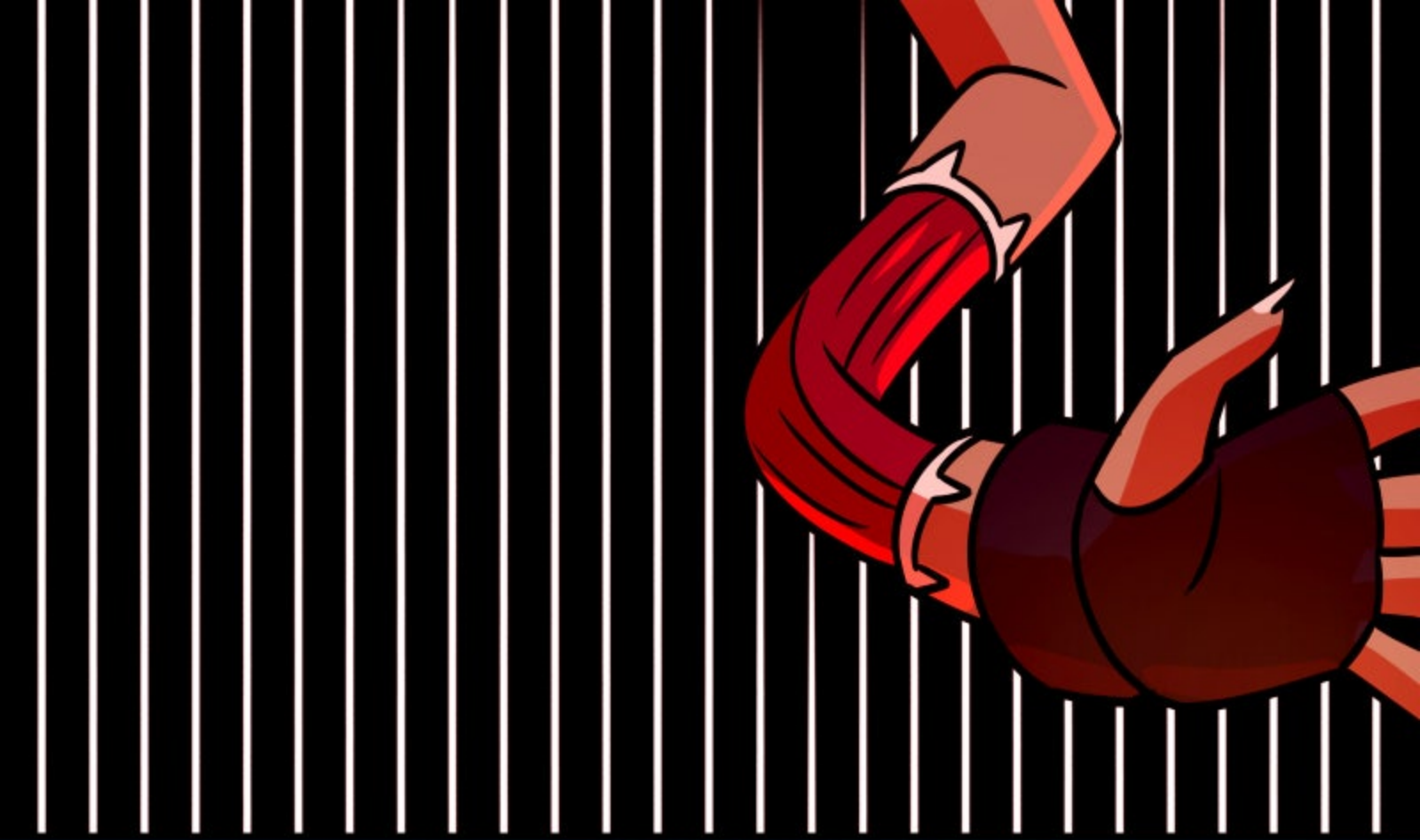


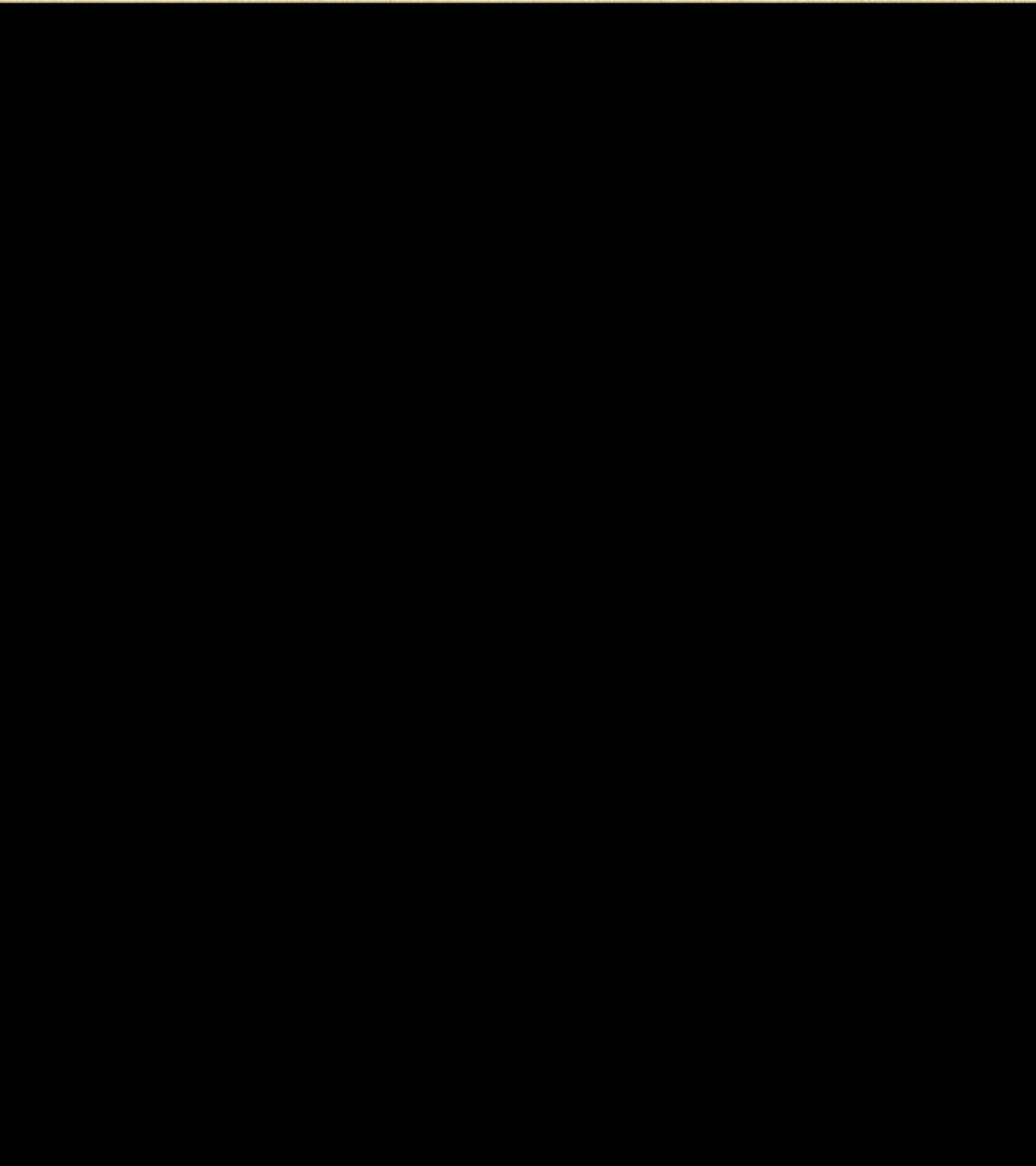
WHAT AM I
EVEN SWEATING FOR?
CATS ALWAYS LAND
ON THEIR F--



ME



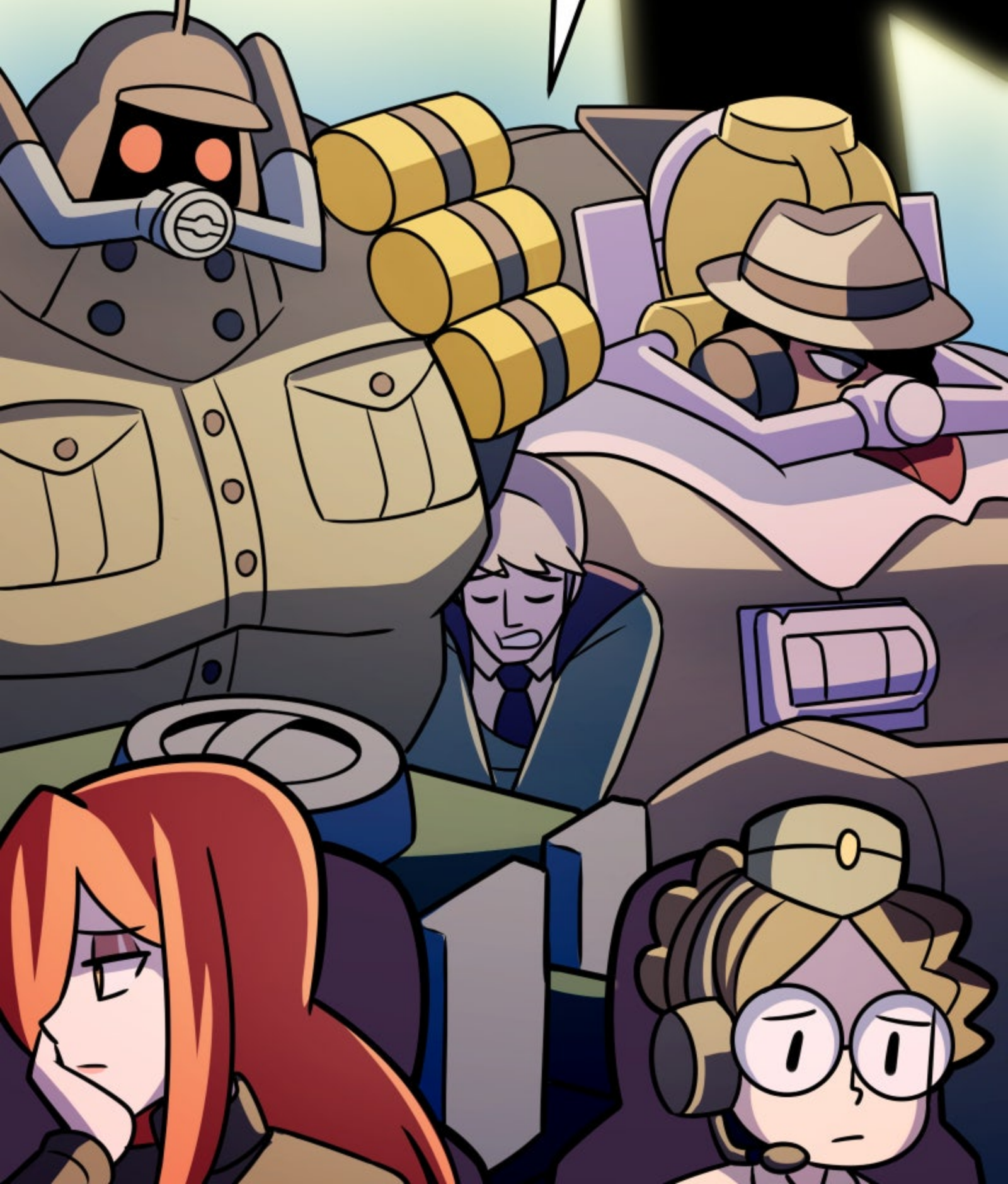


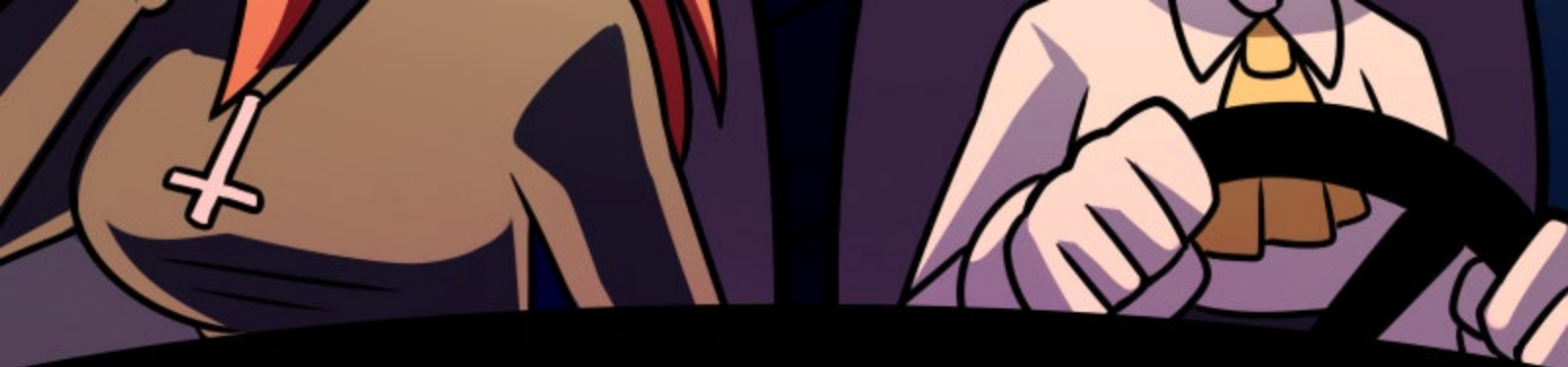




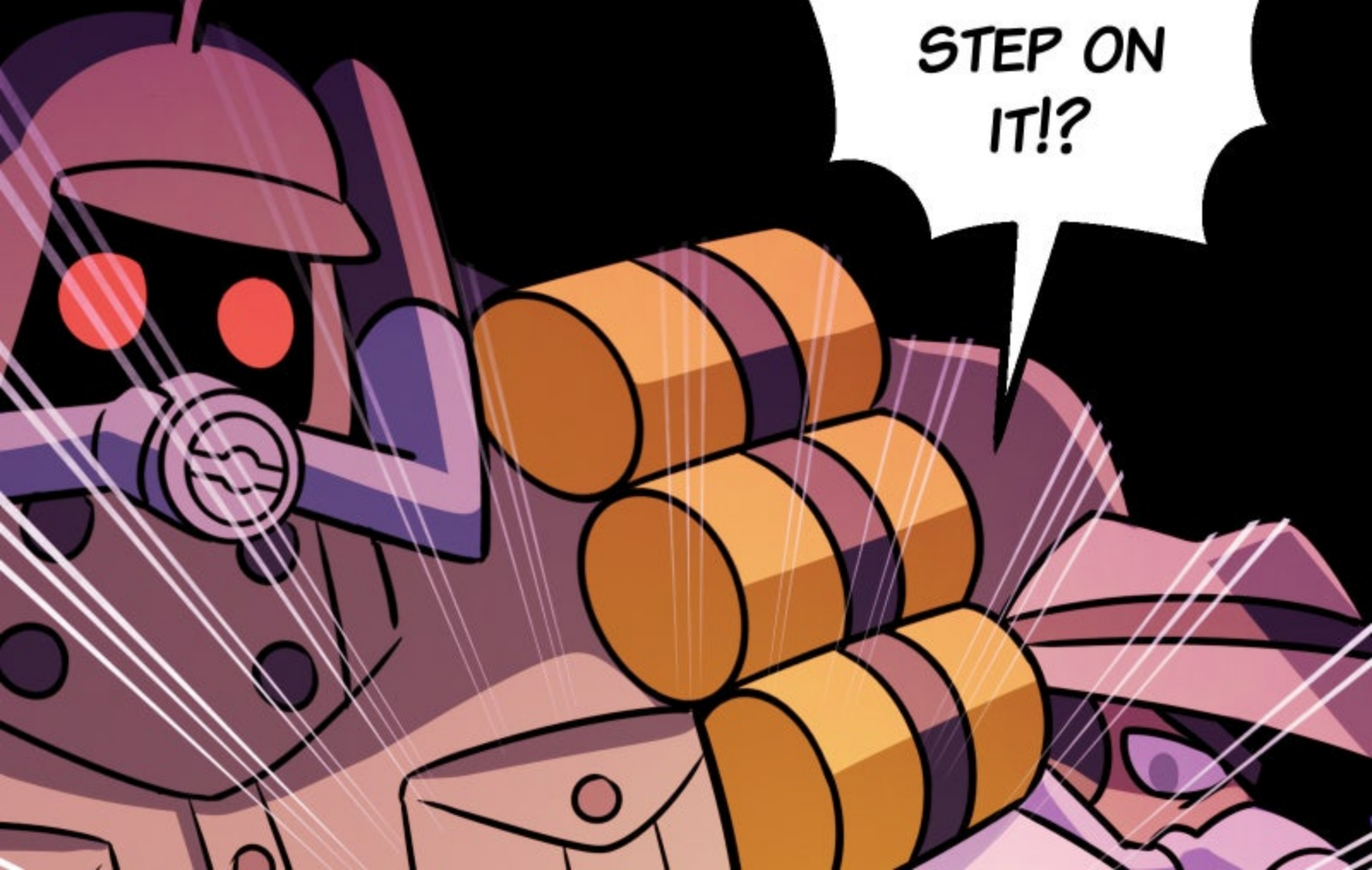


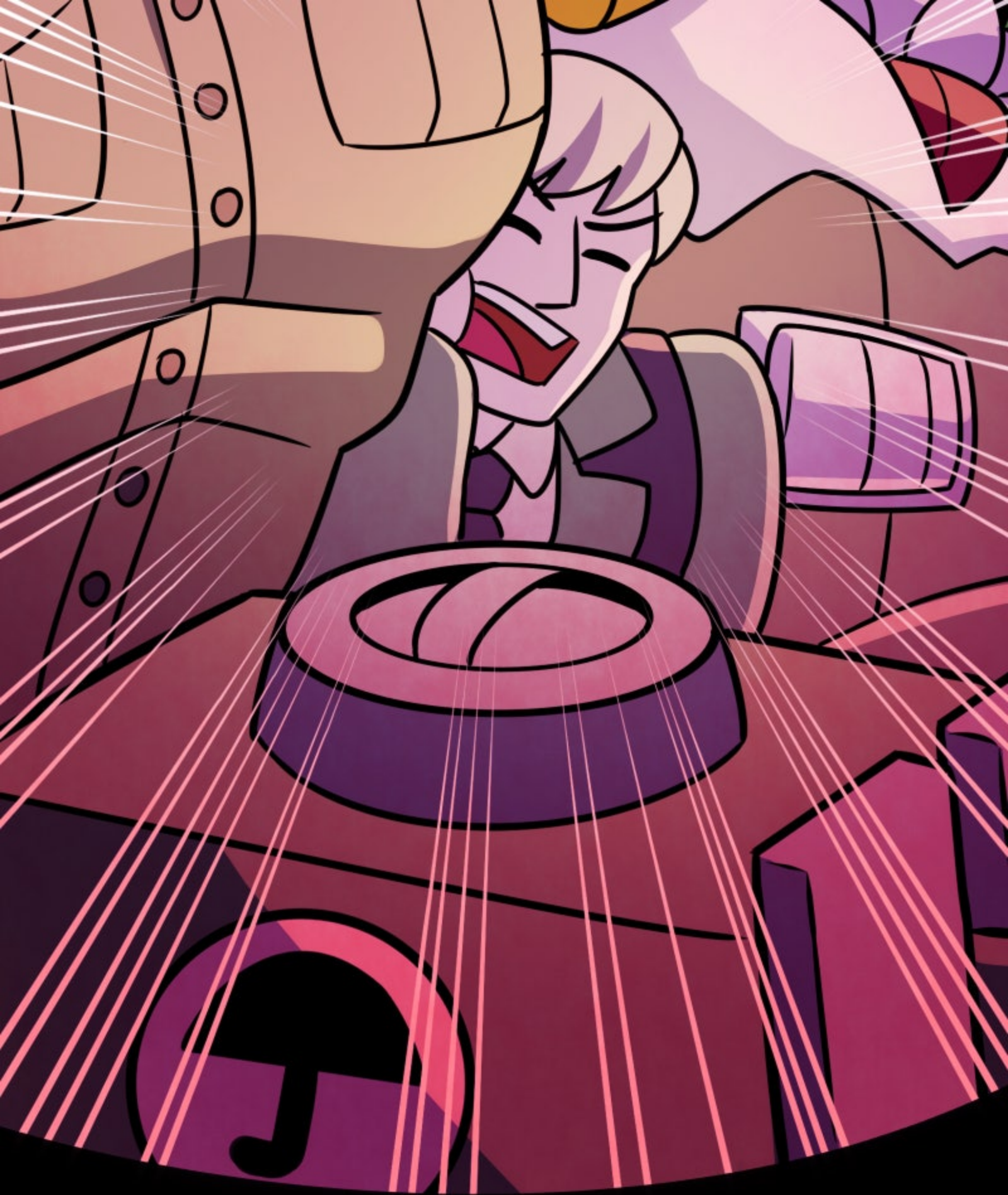
MOLLY, I DON'T
MEAN TO CRITICIZE YOUR
DRIVING OR ANYTHING,
BUT DO YOU THINK
MAYBE, POSSIBLY, IF IT'S
NOT TOO MUCH
TROUBLE...





YOU
COULD
STEP ON
IT!?







WE'LL GET
THERE WHEN WE
GET THERE.



A comic panel featuring a character with blonde hair, wearing a tan flight helmet with a black visor and a gold emblem, and a purple flight suit with a gold tie. The character is sitting in a car seat, holding a dark steering wheel. A large white speech bubble is positioned above the character's head. The background is dark and indistinct.

SHOULDN'T BE
GOING TO THE LAB AT
ALL IF YOU ASK ME.
WHAT WE **SHOULD** BE
DOING IS LOOKING FOR
PEACOCK.

A comic panel featuring a character with blonde hair, wearing a tan flight helmet with a black visor and a gold emblem, and a purple flight suit with a gold tie. The character is sitting in a car seat, holding a dark steering wheel. A large white speech bubble is positioned above the character's head. The background is dark and indistinct.

SURE THING,
LET US KNOW
WHERE WE CAN
DROP YOU.



ENOUGH,
ADAM.

ADAM:

ONCE WE'VE
RETURNED TO LAB 8 WE
CAN DISCUSS NEXT STEPS,
INCLUDING LOCATING
YOUR WAYWARD FRIEND.
BELIEVE ME...





I'D VERY MUCH
LIKE TO FIND OUT IF
THERE'S OTHER
WEAPONS LIKE HER
OUT THERE.





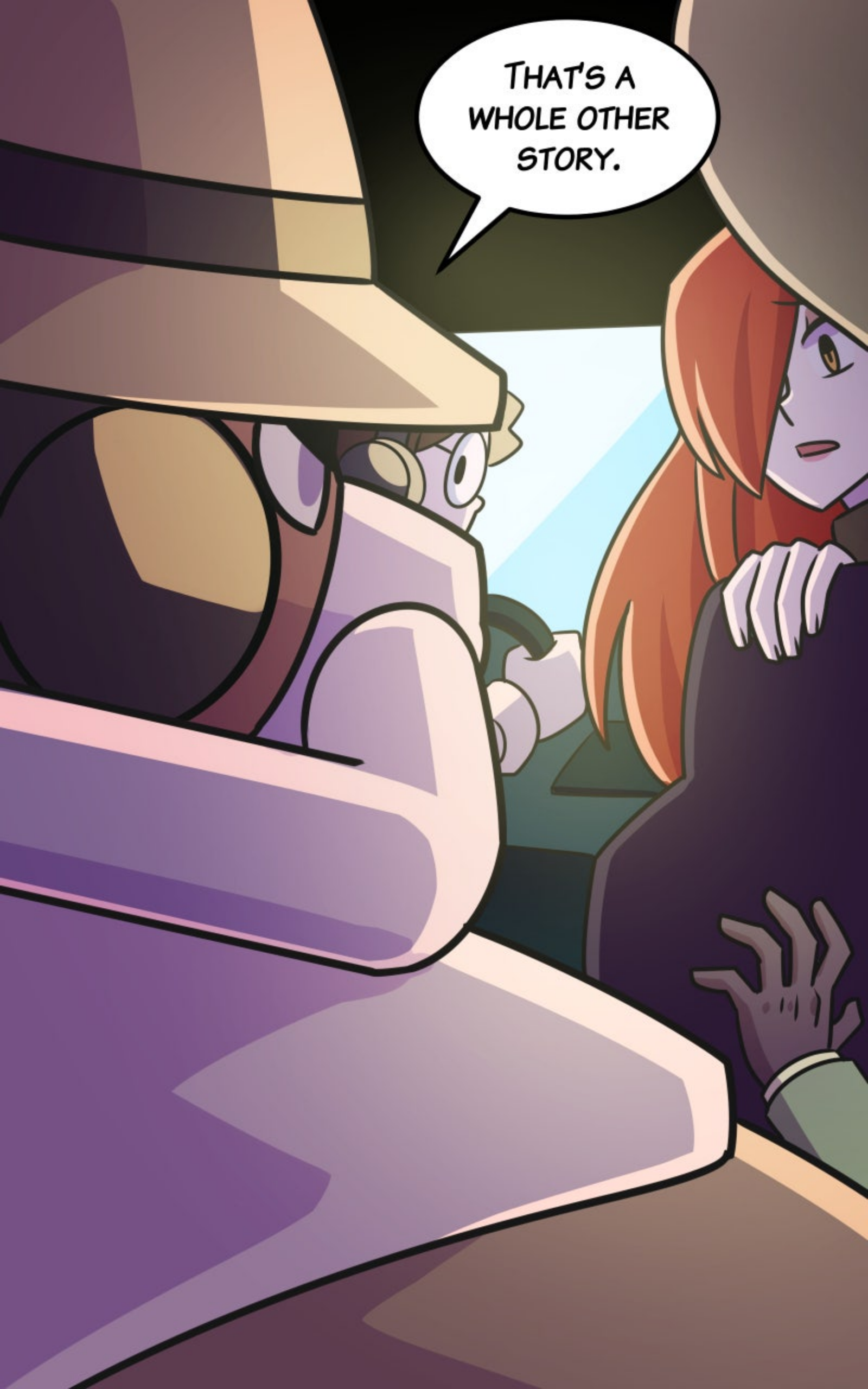


IF IT'S WEAPONS
LIKE US YOU'RE AFTER,
YOU WON'T FIND
ANYTHING AT LAB 8.

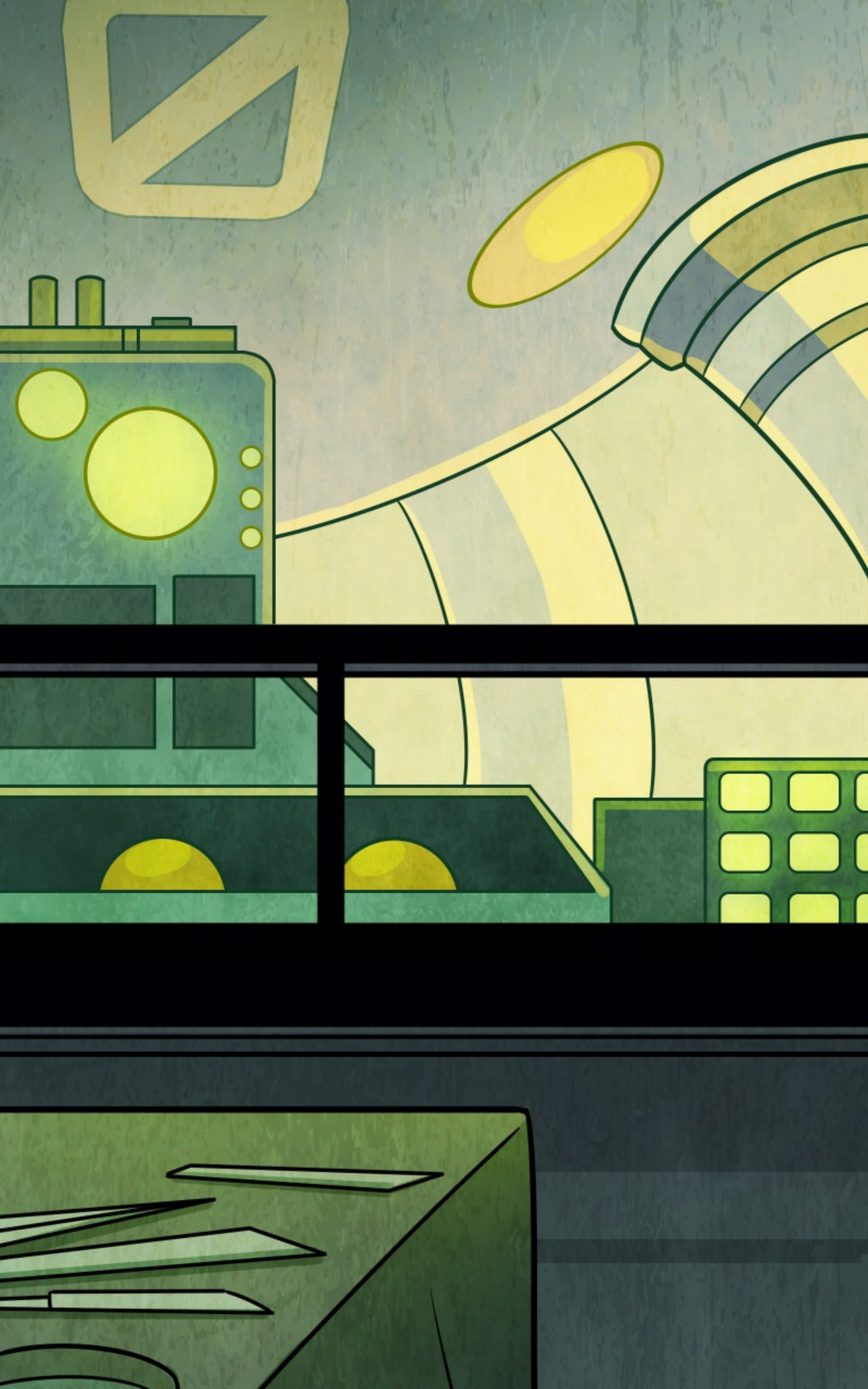
NOW LAB 0,
ON THE OTHER
HAND...



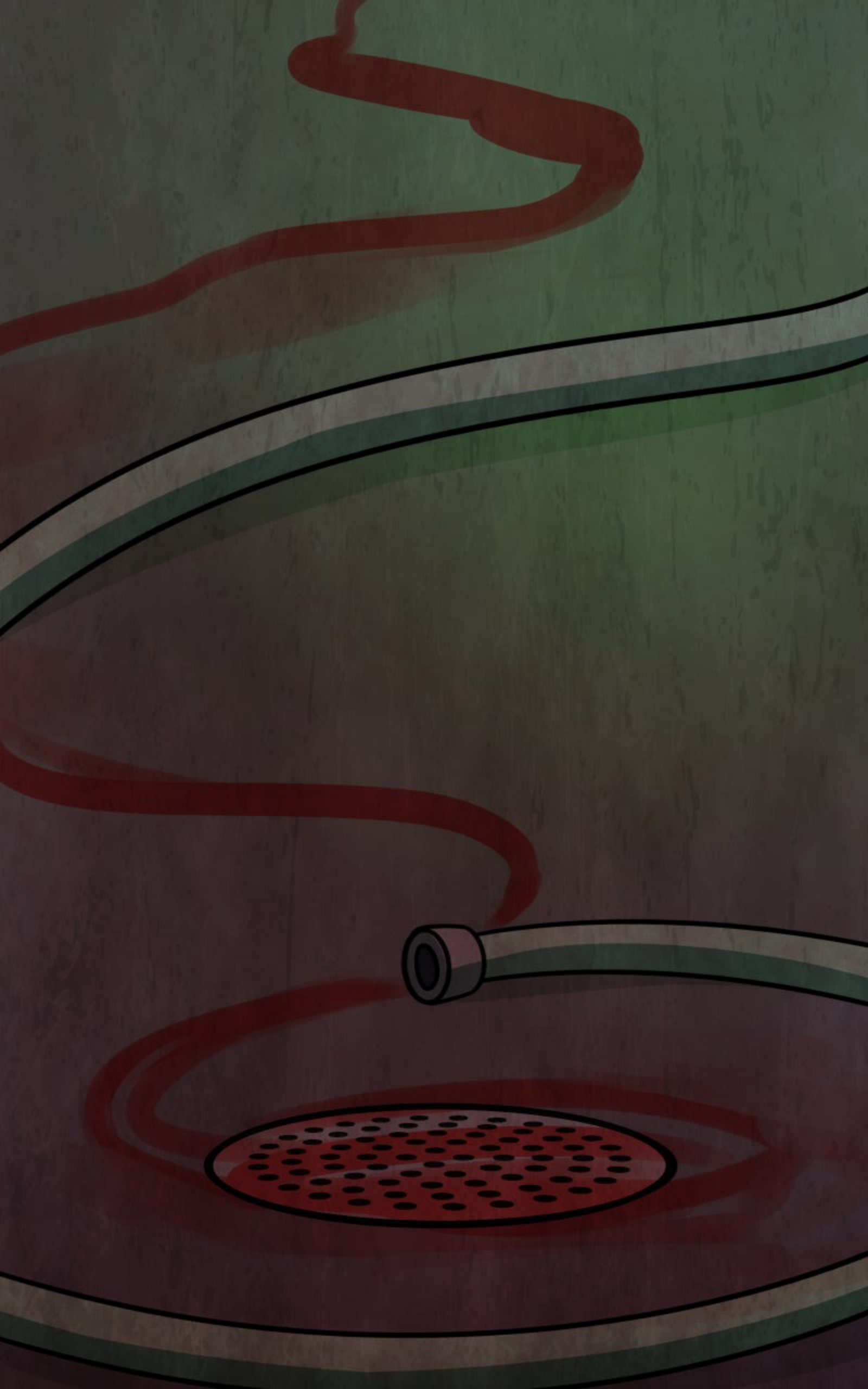
THAT'S A
WHOLE OTHER
STORY.



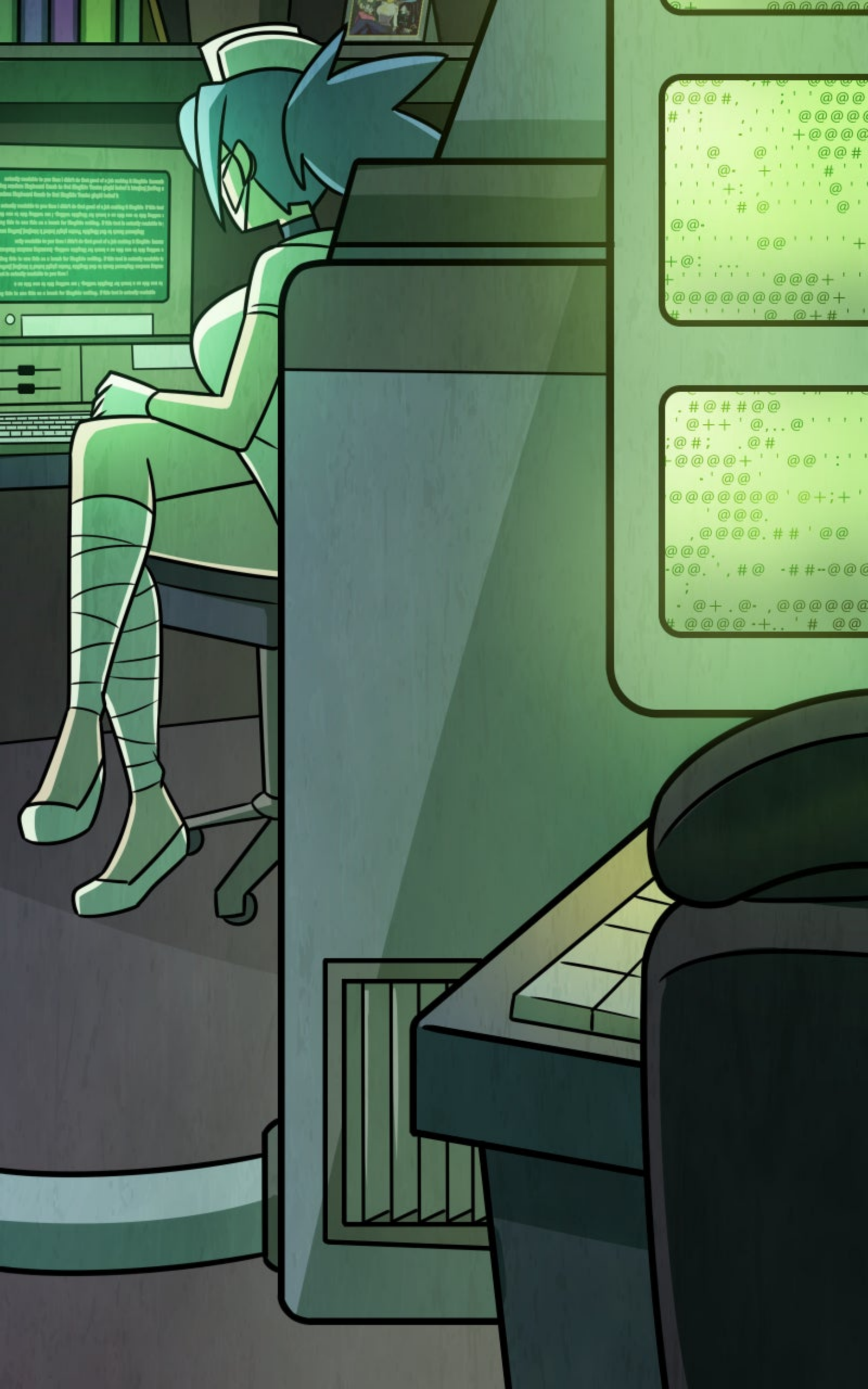








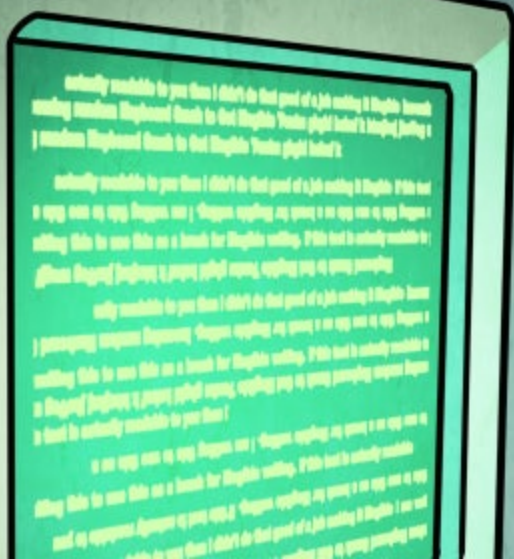








C'MON, YOU
STUPID--





OH,
NURSE...



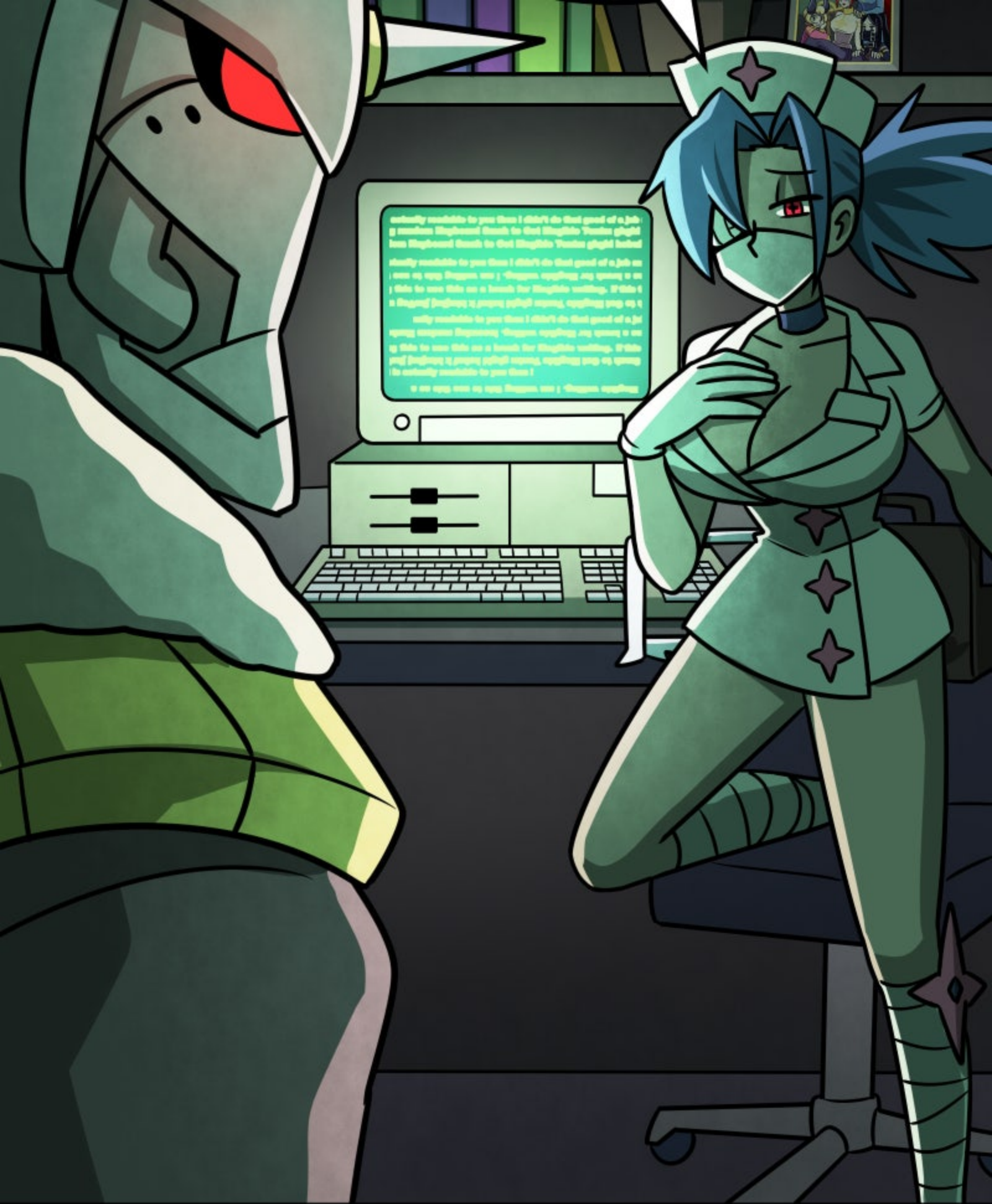
IS THERE
SOMETHING I CAN
HELP YOU WITH?





BRAIN DRAIN!
IT'S... GODDESSES, YOU
STARTLED ME. IT'S GOOD
TO SEE YOU! HOW LONG
HAS IT BEEN?





YOU MEAN SINCE
YOU AND LAST HOPE LEFT
ON YOUR MISSION TO SLAY
THE SKULLGIRL AND FAILED
TO RETURN? WHY, I'M NOT
CERTAIN...





I'D SAY LONG ENOUGH
FOR ME TO HAVE GROWN
CONCERNED OVER YOUR ABSENCE,
BUT NOT LONG ENOUGH FOR ME
TO HAVE FORGOTTEN TO LEAVE AN
ALERT ON THE SYSTEM SHOULD
ONE OF YOU ATTEMPT TO
ACCESS IT.

I ASSUMED YOU WERE
ALL KILLED IN ACTION, AND
REPORTED AS MUCH TO LAB 8. BUT
HERE YOU ARE, ALIVE, WELL AND
ON YOUR OWN, SLINKING BACK
INTO YOUR OWN HOME BASE.





BEHAVIOR LIKE
THAT DOESN'T INSPIRE
MUCH CONFIDENCE IN
YOUR LOYALTY,
VALENTINE.



NOW TELL ME.
WHY ARE YOU
HERE?



YOU KNOW
I'LL FIND OUT.
ONE WAY OR
ANOTHER.

...FINE...
I'LL TELL YOU
EVERYTHING.



WE WENT TO KILL
THE SKULLGIRL, AS ORDERED,
BUT SHE WAS TOO STRONG FOR
US! SHE KILLED THE OTHERS,
AND... AND I THOUGHT SHE'D KILL
ME TOO, BUT THEN SHE--





SHE SPARED
ME! OFFERED ME
A PLACE AT HER
SIDE! I THOUGHT
SHE WAS CRAZY!





BUT WHEN I
LOOKED IN HER EYES I
COULD SEE SHE WAS
STILL IN CONTROL, IF
ONLY JUST...

AND I THOUGHT
TO MYSELF, WHAT BETTER WAY
TO STUDY THE SKULL HEART UP
CLOSE? TO UNDERSTAND IT! TO
EVEN DIRECT IT FOR A TIME, AND
WHEN IT'S SERVED ITS
PURPOSE--





ACCESS
GRANTED



YOU... YOU
BELIEVE ME?

A comic book panel with a dark background. At the top, there are some geometric shapes in shades of green and blue. In the center, two speech bubbles are shown. At the bottom left, a robot with a metallic head, red eyes, and a green and yellow striped collar is visible. At the bottom right, a woman with long blue hair and a green face is looking towards the robot. The scene is dimly lit, with some light coming from the right side.

INDEED
I DO.

THE COMPUTER
WILL PRINT A READOUT
OF THE INFORMATION
YOU REQUIRE.



NOT THAT



I'M NOT GRATEFUL,
BUT... WHAT'S THE
CATCH?

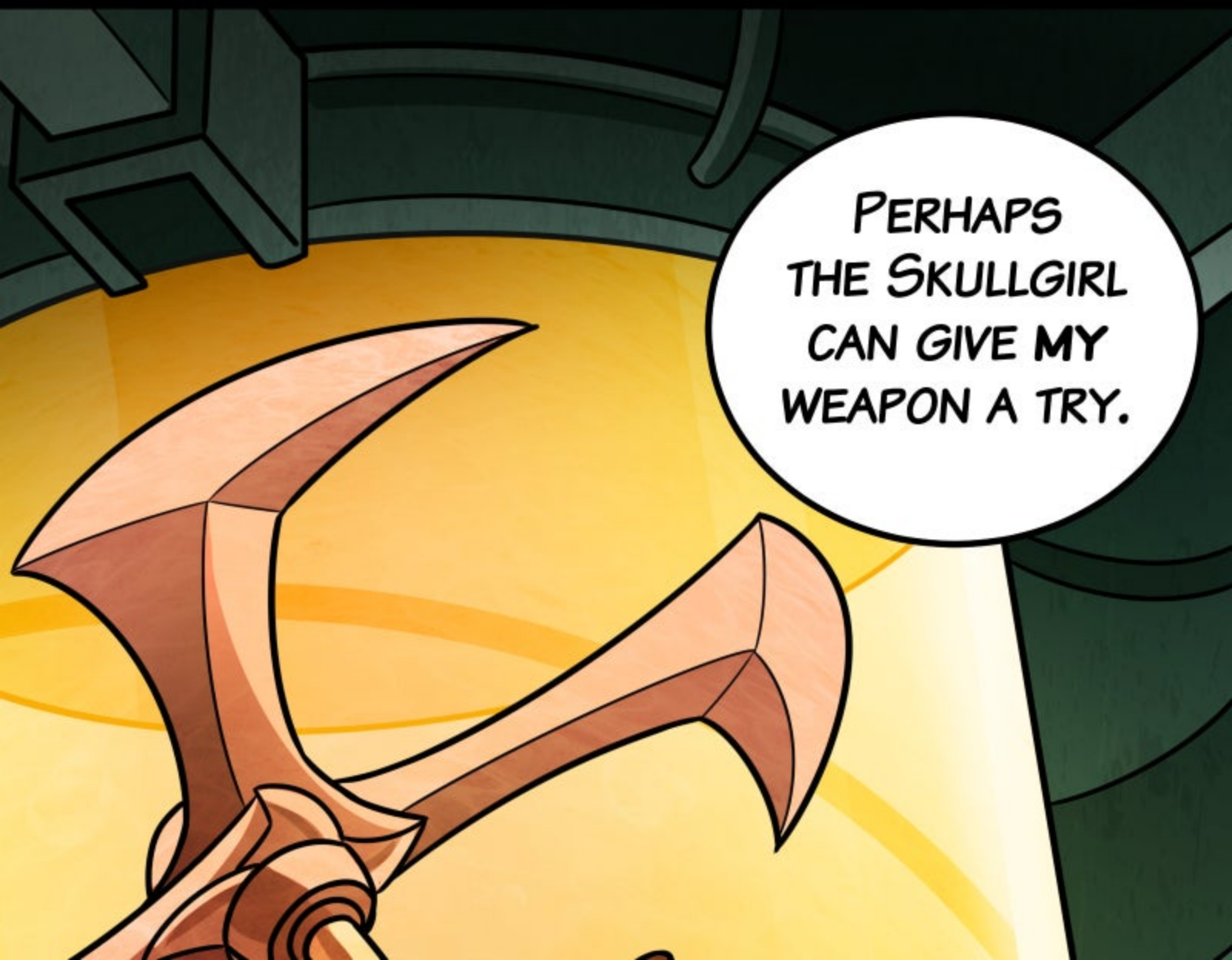
NO CATCH.
I FIND YOUR EXPERIENCE
ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING.
AND IT ISN'T AS IF YOU'VE
LED THE SKULLGIRL TO
MY DOOR.

TRUTH BE
TOLD, I HOPE
YOU SUCCEED.



I HOPE THE SKULLGIRL
ELIMINATES ALL OF AVIAN'S
PATHETIC CREATIONS. HE'S BEEN
A THORN IN MY SIDE FOR FAR
TOO LONG AND COULD USE A BIT
OF HUMBLING. AND THEN, ONCE
IT'S FINISHED...





PERHAPS
THE SKULLGIRL
CAN GIVE MY
WEAPON A TRY.







✧ CREDITS ✧



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